

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the Office Action of June 16, 2009. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16 and 19 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention.

Re: Claims 1-20

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated over Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-132624 by Tsurui (hereinafter, "Tsurui"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites:

"A method, comprising steps of:
enabling a user to select a recording title stored on a digital storage medium in a first program chain for password protection;
receiving a password from said user for said selected recording title;
storing said password on said digital storage medium in said first program chain with said selected recording title; and
storing all menu data representing a password menu screen for said selected recording title on said digital storage medium in a second program chain different from said first program chain, said second program chain being a single program chain according to DVD specifications." (emphasis added)

As indicated above, amended independent claim 1 defines a method in which a selected recording title and a password for the selected recording title are stored on a digital storage medium in a first program chain, and all menu data representing a password menu screen for the selected recording title is stored on the digital storage medium in a second program chain different from the first program chain. Moreover, amended independent claim 1 specifies that the second program chain is a single program chain according to DVD specifications. Independent claims 8 and 16 are amended herein to recite subject matter similar to independent claim 1, albeit in different claim formats. Dependent claims 5, 12 and 19 are also amended herein to

specify that the first program chain is a single program chain according to DVD specifications.

Support for the amendments provided herein may be found, for example, on page 11, lines 8-13 of Applicants' specification (i.e., "According to an exemplary embodiment, controller 40 creates the password menu screen at step 340 by creating video object sets (VOBs) that represent the password menu screen and causing those VOBs to be stored on digital storage medium 120 via disc drive 70 as a separate PGC. That is, the password menu screen created at step 340 may be stored as a different PGC than the PGC for the selected recording" – the terms "a" and "the" clearly indicating single program chains (PGCs)). Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Tsurui fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 8 and 16. Among other things, Tsurui fails to disclose or suggest a feature of "storing all menu data representing a password menu screen for said selected recording title on said digital storage medium in a second program chain different from said first program chain, said second program chain being a single program chain according to DVD specifications" (emphasis added), as recited, for example by independent claim 1 (and similarly recited by independent claims 8 and 16).

In particular, Tsurui clearly teaches that a password menu screen for a given recording title is stored as multiple program chains. This is clearly evidenced by Drawings 3 and 5 and paragraphs [0042]-[0046] of Tsurui where the password menu screen shown as images 301-305 of Drawing 3 is stored as PGCs #1-5 of Drawing 5(b). That is, images 301-305 of Drawing 3 respectively correspond to PGCs #1-5 of Drawing 5(b) (see paragraphs [0042]-[0046]). As such, Tsurui fails to disclose or suggest at least one notable feature of the claimed invention, namely the feature of "storing all menu data representing a password menu screen for said selected recording title on said digital storage medium in a second program chain different from said first program chain, said second program chain being a single program chain according to DVD

specifications", as recited, for example by independent claim 1 (and similarly recited by independent claims 8 and 16).

Accordingly, in view of Tsurui's failure to disclose or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 1, 8 and 16, these independent claims and their respective dependent claims are deemed both novel and non-obvious over Tsurui and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments and accompanying amendments, the Applicants believe this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due from this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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